

THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE INTERSTATE COMPACT

Founding Fathers: How Should We Elect the President?

- IDEA #1 – Let Congress elect President
- IDEA #2 – Let the State Legislatures elect President
- IDEA #3 – Let the People elect the President (James Madison supported, slave states did not)
- IDEA #4 – The Electoral College

The Electoral College

- Decided upon after 30 votes over 22 days
- Constitutional Convention could not decide on how to have states cast their Electoral Votes
- Opted for Federalist policy to let states decide

ARTICLE II – Section I

“Each State shall appoint,
in such Manner as
the Legislature thereof may direct,
a Number of Electors”

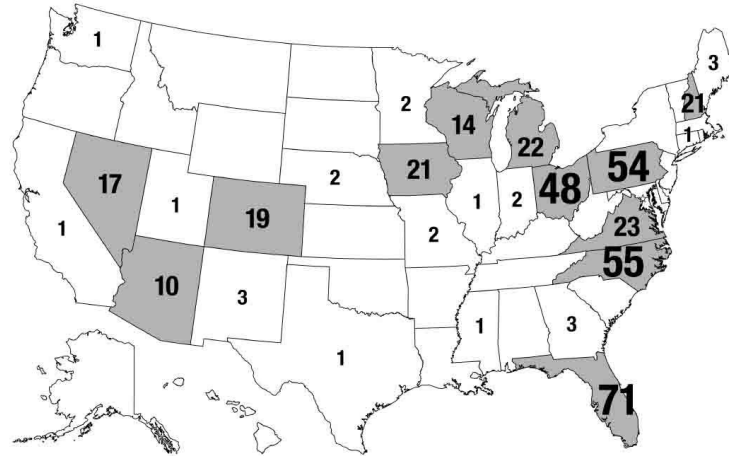
Winner-Take-All

- Policy instituted by a few states to “enlarge” their importance in presidential elections.
- This lead to domino effect of mass adoption
- NOT part of the Constitution
- Presently used by 48 States
- Nebraska and Maine have Winner-Take-All congressional district electors

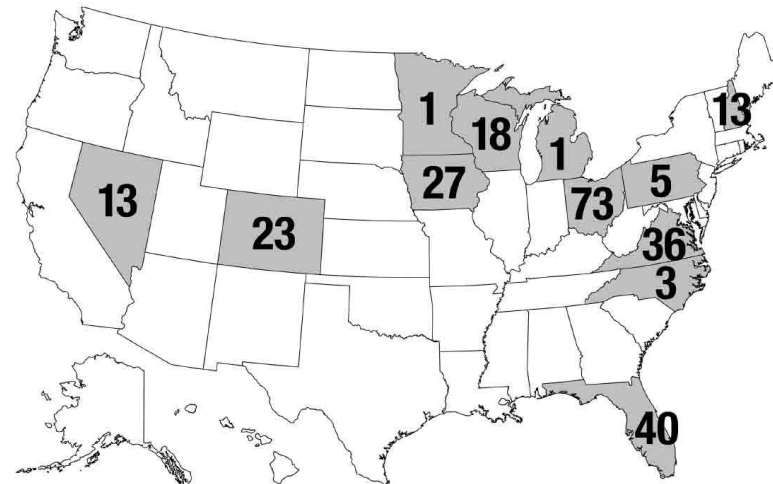
Our Broken System of Electing America's President

Battle Ground State Politics

2016 General-Election Campaign Events



2012 General-Election Campaign Events



Battleground States Make U.S. Policy

No Child Left Behind - 2002

- Republican President and House, Democrat Senate
- Largest Federal intrusion into state education programs in 50 years
- Driven by Ohio politics
- Placate Cincinnati suburban voters to win state

Medicare Part D - 2003

- Republican President, House, and Senate
- \$1 Trillion in new Federal entitlement spending
- Policy driven by Florida's politics and 2000 election dispute
- Placate senior voters along Florida's I-4 Corridor to increase chances of winning the state

End of NAFTA – Trade Wars 2017

- Republican President, House, and Senate
- Largest departure from free trade policy in 25+ years
- Driven by Rust Belt (PA, MI, WI) politics
- Placate labor voters to win traditionally blue states

Yet More Battleground State Preferential Treatment

- 2X as likely to get natural disaster declaration
- 2x as likely to get Federal waivers approved for programs like NCLB
- Receive more Federal grants and grant money than non-battleground states
- Receive more favorable treatment in public land disputes (Colorado vs. Utah)

A Utah History Example

The Missouri Mormon Extermination Order



Missouri Executive Order No. 44:

Gen. John B. Clark:

Sir: Since the order of this morning to you, directing you to cause four hundred mounted men to be raised within your division, I have received by Amos Reese, Esq., of Ray county, and Wiley C. Williams, Esq., one of my aids [[sic](#)], information of the most appalling character, which entirely changes the face of things, and places the Mormons in the attitude of an open and avowed defiance of the laws, and of having made war upon the people of this state. Your orders are, therefore, to hasten your operation with all possible speed. **The Mormons must be treated as enemies, and must be exterminated or driven from the state** if necessary for the public peace—their outrages are beyond all description. If you can increase your force, you are authorized to do so to any extent you may consider necessary. I have just issued orders to Maj. Gen. Willock, of Marion county, to raise five hundred men, and to march them to the northern part of Daviess, and there unite with Gen. Doniphan, of Clay, who has been ordered with five hundred men to proceed to the same point for the purpose of intercepting the retreat of the Mormons to the north. They have been directed to communicate with you by express, you can also communicate with them if you find it necessary. Instead therefore of proceeding as at first directed to reinstate the citizens of Daviess in their homes, you will proceed immediately to Richmond and then operate against the Mormons. Brig. Gen. Parks of Ray, has been ordered to have four hundred of his brigade in readiness to join you at Richmond. The whole force will be placed under your command.

I am very respectfully, yr obt st [your obedient servant],

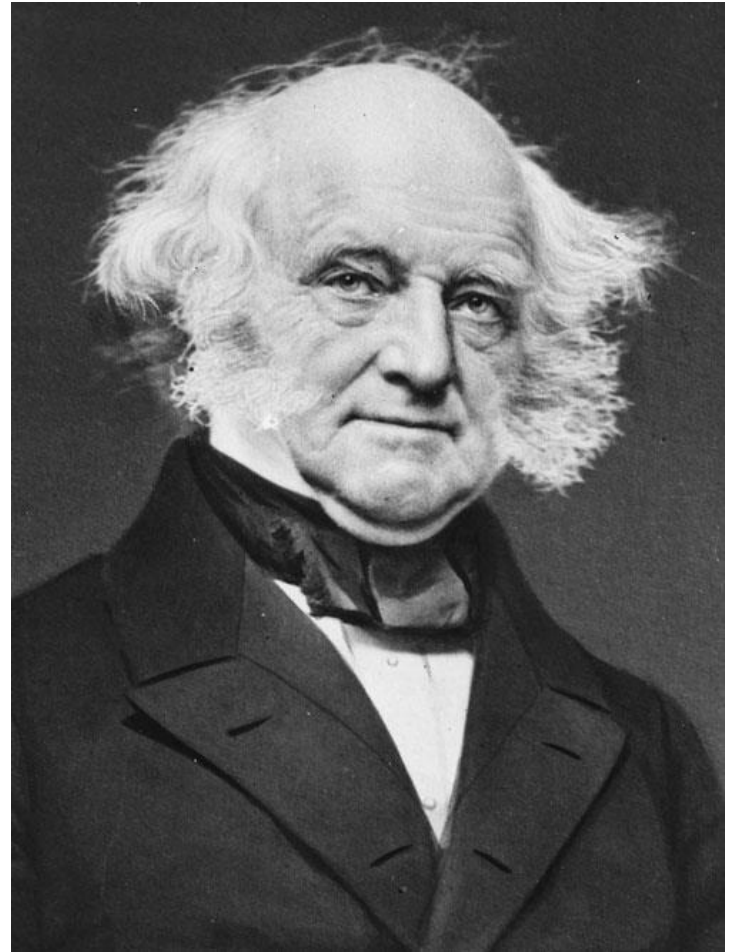
L. W. Boggs, Commander-in-Chief

October 27, 1838

President Van Buren's Response

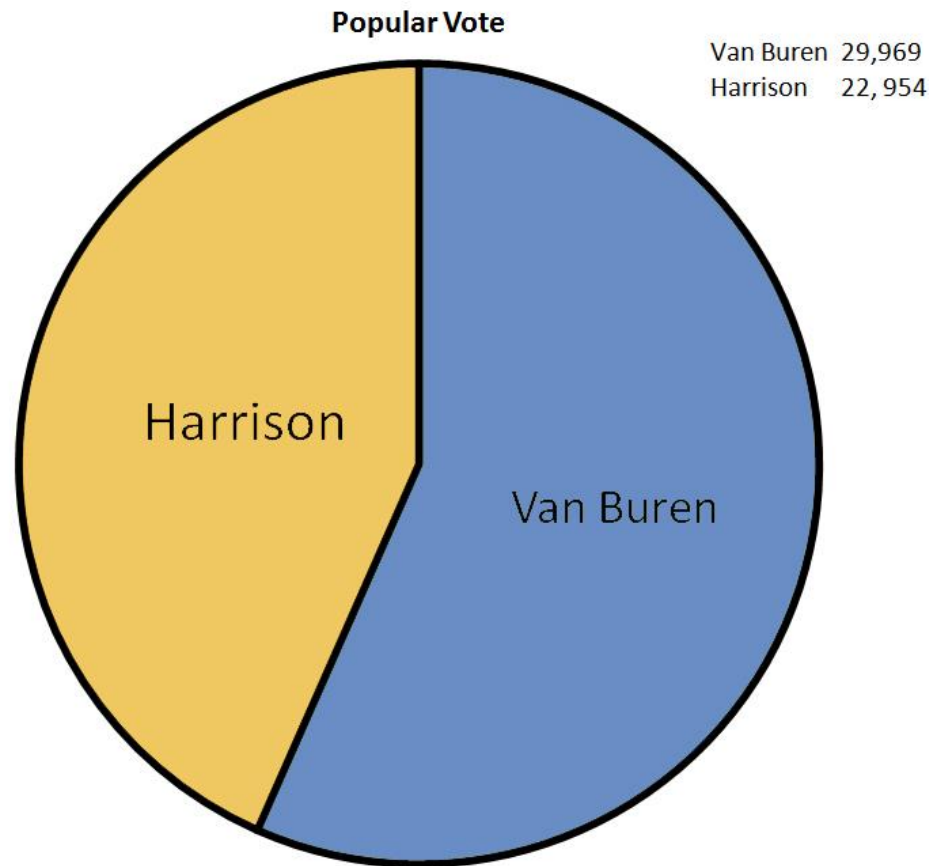
"What can I do? I can do nothing for you, -if I do anything, I shall come in contact with the whole State of Missouri."

"Your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you; if I take up for you, I shall lose the vote of Missouri."



Van Buren's 1840 Election Results

Wins Missouri



Bottom Line:

Under our current
winner-take-all system,
Presidential Candidates and
Officeholders get transactional
with states

FIXING THE BATTLEGROUND STATE MONOPOLY ON POLICY AND POLITICS

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

What is it?

- A compact among states
- Compact members agree to award their state electors to the winner of the national popular vote
- Compact only goes into effect once 270 electoral votes are found in the compact (presently 165)
- Compact members can leave at will (barring July 20 thru Inauguration Day blackout dates)

Advantages

- Every Vote Becomes Relevant
- End of Battleground state favoritism and policymaking
- “Margin of Victory” becomes state campaign strategy rather than “50% + 1”
- Every state, including Utah, must receive attention in the race for President to maximize vote count
- Every state, including Utah, will have an influence in national policy making

More Advantages

- Utah's Political Capital will largely remain in the state to fund local campaigns rather than be exported to campaigns in battleground states
- Utah's Political Parties will be adequately funded to perform their GOTV function

Yet Even More Advantages

- National Political Parties would be compelled to nominate candidates that have the greatest potential appeal to the American people at large.
- Presidential Nominees would be selected for merit rather than their groomed battleground state credentials.
- Eliminates the prospects of “crises of illegitimacy” as seen after the 2016 election

Disadvantages

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Common Concerns

Under a National Popular Vote
Interstate Compact system, would
Hillary Clinton have become
President?

Wouldn't an NPVIC system encourage
fraud?

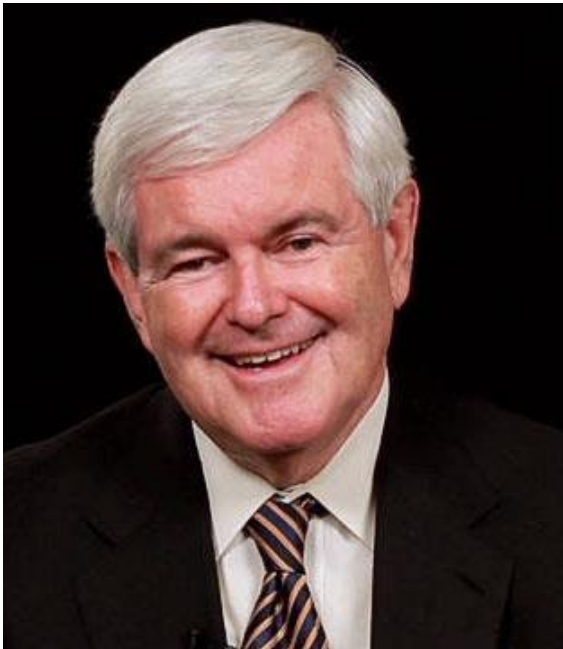
NPVIC sounds like an amazing solution
to our election problems.

How do I sign up as a co-sponsor for
Rep. Peterson's bill? ;)

Wouldn't big cities dominate elections
under an NPVIC system?

NOTABLE NPVIC SUPPORTERS

Newt Gingrich



Howard Dean



NOTABLE NPVIC SUPPORTERS

Former Utah Senator Jake Garn



Quotable Quotes

“Pennsylvania is a battleground state, it gets a ton of attention, a ton of resources. The day this bill passes we become irrelevant to electoral campaigns. ... We become Utah on the day this bill passes.”

- Senator Daylin Leach speaking to PBS on a bill to change Pennsylvania's winner-take-all system

Q and A